

APPENDIX.

PORTRAIT OF THE LATE ASSOCIATE JUSTICE RODMAN, PRESENTED TO THE COURT
ON 6 FEBRUARY, 1895.

Hon. Geo. H. Brown, Jr., addressing the Court, said:

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:—In behalf of his sons and daughters, I have the honor of presenting the portrait of WILLIAM BLOUNT RODMAN, who was for ten years of his life a member of this Court. It is right and proper that we should not only preserve in the volumes of the Reports of this Court the evidences of the wisdom, learning, and ability of its members, but that their familiar faces should look down from their canvases upon the scene of their earthly labors and triumphs. It is not only calculated to inspire your Honors to emulate the examples of your great predecessors and to write your names in large letters upon the judicial history of the State, but the young men who, on each recurring term, go forth from this room to engage in the generous rivalry, and encounter the difficulties of our profession, will catch hope and inspiration as they gaze upon the noble features of the dead jurists whose portraits ornament these walls. They will remember the humble origin of many of them, the obstacles overcome, and the difficulties surmounted, and perchance ambition's spark may be fanned into an energetic flame by the contemplation of their careers.

"Lives of great men oft remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

He, whose lifelike portrait I have the honor to present, was born in the town of Washington, North Carolina, 29 June, 1817, and was the son of William Wanton Rodman and his wife, Polly Ann, the daughter of that John Gray Blount whose name is so well known throughout Eastern and Western North Carolina as the largest landowner who ever lived in the State. The subject of this sketch came of intellectual ancestors on both sides. His father is said to have been a very able lawyer and a man of much intellectual force, who practised law in the city of New York for a number of years, and removed to Washington, North Carolina, in 1811. The maternal grandfather, John Gray Blount, is said to have been a man of strong and rugged personality, progressive and enterprising, of great force of character and excellent judgment. He was not a member of any of the learned professions. The residence which John Gray Blount constructed, and where he lived and died, is now standing in the town of Washington, and is the home of Judge Rodman's surviving sister.

From the early accounts that we have of him, the youth of Judge Rodman was very precocious. At the early age of five years the young boy William Rodman was at school, and according to the reports of his teacher, still in existence, he could at the tender age of seven years scan and translate Latin. It frequently happens that extraordinary, precocious children do not fulfill the promise of their youth. In this case, however, the youth was but the father of the man. A remarkable capacity to acquire and assimilate learning was manifested in him almost before he was out of frocks, and he retained his faculty in a most remarkable degree unimpaired up to the close of his long and laborious life. It was not simply the power to remember that he possessed, but it was the faculty of complete assimilation. What he read and learned became a part of his intellectual fiber. As the healthy stomach takes